

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 /018 W
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R 231249Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3713
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS KUWAIT 3912

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BFOL, BTIO, KU
SUBJ: HOTEL ACTIVITY IN KUWAIT

REF: A. KUWAIT 3627 B. KUWAIT 3724 C. USDOC 13927

1. REFTELS, WHICH WERE NOT SENT BEIRUT, HAD TO DO WITH INTEREST BY KUWAITI GROUP AND HOLIDAY INNS TO DISCUSS NEW HOTEL PROJECT HERE. ACCORDING TO REF C, HOLIDAY INNS MANAGEING DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST, NABIL CHARTOUNI, WHO BASED IN BEIRUT INTENDS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH GHAZI AL-NAFISI, CHAIRMAN, SALHIYA REAL ESTATE COMPANY, WHICH HOLDS LICENSE TO BUILD NEW HOTEL.

2. NAFISI CALLED EMBOFF SEPT 23 TO SAY HE HAS NOT YET HEARD FROM CHARTOUNI. EMBOFF SAID CURRENT SITUATION IN LEBANON MAY HAVE DELAYED CHARTOUNI. NAFISI ASKED THAT WE INFORM CHARTOUNI THAT HE WILL BE OUT OF KUWAIT BETWEEN SEPT 30 AND OCTOBER 10. NAFISI HOPES CHARTOUNI WILL BE ABLE TO COME HERE BEFORE SEPT 30, BUT IF HE IS NOT ABLE TO DO SO, HE SHOULD NOT COME UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER 10. IN ANY CASE NAFISI WOULD APPRECIATE GETTING SOME DIRECT WORD FROM HOLIDAY INNS. EMBASSY BEIRUT REQUESTED BRING FOREGOING TO CHARTOUNI'S ATTENTION.

3. IN OTHER HOTEL RELATED ACTIVITY, LOCAL GROUP WHICH INCLUDES KUWAIT AIRWAYS, KUWAIT HOTELS COMPANY (WHICH OWNS LOCAL HILTON) AND KUWAIT RECREATION AND TOURISM COMPANY MET EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH REPS FROM HYATT HOUSE AND INTERCONTINENTAL. KUWAITI
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GROUP PRESENTLY STUDYINGTHE TWO PROPOSALS, AND ACCORDING TO KAC

CHAIRMAN FAISAL FLEIJ, KUWAITIS WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SELECTION
WITHIN WEEK OR TWO.

4. COMMENT: AS OF NOW LOOKS AS THOUGH TWO MAJOR HOTELS HERE
VERY LIKELY TO BE BUILT BY US COMPANIES. MEANWHILE SHERATON AND
HILTON GOING FORWARD WITH EXPANSION PLANS.
STOLTZFUS

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